

Chapter 12: Punctuation

WORKSHEET 8

Semicolons A

31 A & B

Use a semicolon between independent clauses in a sentence if they are not joined by *and*, *but*, *or*, *nor*, *for*, *so*, or *yet*.

Maria's latest tape is selling rapidly; she may become a major star.

Use a semicolon between independent clauses joined by a conjunctive adverb or a transitional expression. Conjunctive adverbs include *however*, *meanwhile*, *also*, *instead*, *otherwise*, and *nevertheless*. Common transitional expressions are *as a result*, *in fact*, *for example*, *in addition*, and *in other words*.

I've called him repeatedly; however, I've not been able to reach him.

Julio seems tired; in fact, he seems completely exhausted.

Exercise: Proofreading Cross out incorrect punctuation, and add semicolons as needed to punctuate the following sentences correctly.

EXAMPLE: 1. My mother and I usually go to Massachusetts in late summer; however, last year we went in July.

1. My grandparents live near Cape Cod, therefore, we visit there often.
2. I miss my friends and sometimes find the yearly trip to Cape Cod boring, besides, my cousins in Massachusetts are all older than I am.
3. To my great surprise, we had a good time last year, we even did some sightseeing in Boston and Plymouth.
4. One hot day my grandparents and my mother and I went to the beach, my grandfather immediately went down to the water for a swim.
5. My grandfather loves the water and is a strong swimmer, nevertheless, we worried when we saw that he was swimming out farther and farther in the choppy sea.
6. Grandpa finally turned around and swam back to shore, he was astonished that we had been worried about him.
7. While he was in the water, Mom had gathered driftwood and built a fire in a shallow pit in the sand, Grandma had put lobsters and potatoes on the coals.
8. By the time we had finished eating, it was quite late, consequently, everyone else on the beach had gone home.
9. We didn't leave for home right away, instead, we spent the evening watching the darkening ocean and listening to the whispering waves.
10. I enjoyed the outing, in fact, I look forward to going again soon.

Chapter 12 Punctuation



Semicolons B

31 C e D

A semicolon (rather than a comma) may be needed to separate independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction when there are commas within the clauses.

CONFUSING: Bert, Ray, and Jette joined us, and Pat and Bo arrived later.

CLEAR: Bert, Ray, and Jette joined us; and Pat and Bo arrived later.

Use a semicolon between items in a series if the items contain commas.

CONFUSING: The club officers are Kiyo Okaya, president, Lois Gould, secretary, and Maria Columbo, treasurer.

CLEAR: The club officers are Kiyo Okaya, president; Lois Gould, secretary; and Maria Columbo, treasurer.

Exercise: Proofreading Some of the following sentences are punctuated incorrectly. Cross out incorrect punctuation, and add semicolons as needed. Circle the number of any sentence that is punctuated correctly.

EXAMPLE: 1. For the opinion survey, Billie will call the Grays, the Mitchells, and the Millers; and Jesse will call the Chuns, the Van Horns, and the Schmidts.

1. In the fifteenth century, the kings of France, England, and Spain grew stronger.
2. Gloria will go with Sal, and Bob, Fred, and Tyrone will come later.
3. Africa's once-powerful kingdoms included Mali, on the Niger River, Benin, in what is now Nigeria, and Karanga, in southern Africa.
4. The Incas in Peru planted crops, such as corn, domesticated animals, such as the llama, and developed crafts, such as weaving.
5. I've planted new parsley, chives, and dill, and basil is already in the garden.
6. The Mohawks, Senecas, Oneidas, Onondagas, and Cayugas banded together in the late 1500s to advance peace, civil authority, and righteousness.
7. Mrs. Gillis said that we could choose to write about Dekanawidah, the Huron founder of the Iroquois League, Mansa Musa, the Muslim emperor of Mali, Tamerlane, the Mongol conqueror of the Ottoman Turks, or Alexander the Great, the Macedonian conqueror of Greece and the Persian Empire.
8. Ahmad was surprised to see Juana, Michelle, and Carlos; but Erik, Faith, and I were not surprised at all.
9. In class today, we discussed the contributions of Gutenberg, the inventor of the printing press, Galileo, the inventor of the first complete astronomical telescope, and Newton, the discoverer of the laws of gravity.
10. At the concert I sat with Eli, Bill, and Earl, and May, Ruth, and Jo sat with Dad.